(e) MSP for forestation of degraded lands is one of the several measures contemplated to help in achieving the goal of one-third Forest and Tree Cover in the country.

Unscientific forestation of Vilayati Babool (Precipus *Juliflora*)

†3718. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether environmental balance has been disturbed due to the unscientific afforestation of Vilayati Balool (Precipus *Juliflora*) in Rajasthan;

(b) whether there has been any adverse impact on the habits of wild animals as a result thereof and their numbers are decreasing continuously; and

(c) what steps are being taken to improve this situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) No, Sir. Due emphasis is being given on planting of site-specific species while undertaking afforestation work in a particular area.

(b) There are no observations of any adverse impact on the habits of wild animals in areas where Vilayati Babool *(Prosopis juliflora)* occurs.

(c) Question does not arise.

Lack of funds for expansion of forest

†3719. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the target for expansion of the forests in the country is not being achieved and the main hindrance in it is the crunch of funds;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) the requirement of total additional capital assessed for the target regarding the expansion of forests?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) The present inadequacy of budget allocation for tree planting has been cited as one of the constrained in achieving the target of one-third Forest and Tree Cover by the year 2012. The Ministry of Environment and Forests has mooted several initiatives to achieve the target on time which include provision of assistance for High-tech nurseries and Satellite nurseries for production of Quality Planting Material, augmentation of National Afforestation Programme (NAP) with additional component of assistance to Joint Forest Management Committees (JFMCs), effecting step-up in budgetary allocation, securing increased people's participation, and emphasizing augmentation of staff strength at the cutting edge level in States. Besides, promotion of tree planting on private land, including farm lands, is being ensured by advising States to rationalize the regulations relating to felling and transit of trees grown on private lands. The States have also been advised to constitute inter-departmental committee chaired by Chief Secretary to involve all land-owing Departments in tree planting.

(c) As per the National Forestry Action Plan (NFAP) of India 1999, the total requirement for the 20 year period has been estimated to be Rs. 1,33,902.78 crores to achieve the requisite target of improvement and expansion of Forest and Tree Cover.

Laying of roads using plastic waste

3720. SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether an experiment has been made to lay road using plastic waste;

(b) whether his Ministry has given green signal for laying of roads using plastic waste;

(c) if so, whether his Ministry has taken up with Ministry of Road Transport for laying of roads using plastic waste; and

(d) if so, the reaction thereto?